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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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ITEM 3

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ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 3 JAN 74

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN CABINET CHANGE

25X1 RUMORS OF AN IMPENDING CABINET CHANGE ARE CROPPING UP AGAIN IN EGYPT. THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER IN A CABINET THAT MAY BE TOUTED AS A GOVERNMENT OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IS MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE HIJAZI, THE ARCHITECT OF AN ECONOMIC POLICY INTENDED TO LEAD EGYPT AWAY FROM SOCIALISM.

25X1 PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SPENT THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS DISCUSSING A CABINET SHUFFLE,

25X1

THE US INTERESTS SECTION IN CAIRO BELIEVES THAT A REORGANIZATION MAY BE IMMINENT. IF HIJAZI IS

DATE:

ORIG: State Department review completed

UNIT:

EXT:

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REPORTS OF IMPENDING CABINET CHANGES HAVE BEEN RIFE SINCE BEFORE THE WAR. THE NEW POLICY ORIENTATION THAT WOULD DICTATE A REORGANIZATION, ALTHOUGH INTERRUPTED BY THE WAR, ■HAS NOT BASICALLY CHANGED. SAYID MARI, A CLOSE ADVISER OF SADAT'S WHO HAS BEEN PROMINENT AMONG RUMORED PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES SINCE LAST SUMMER, HAS REPORTEDLY TURNED DOWN AN OFFER OF THE JOB.

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